

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 08247 301107Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 HA-05 SCS-06 PA-01 ICA-11
/036 W

-----106410 301125Z /23

P 300932Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3913
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHNM, IS
SUBJECT: COMPLAINT BY BAPTIST MISSIONARIES

REF: STATE 160687

1. ACCORDING TO POLICE OFFICAL, INCIDENT TOOK PLACE ON SHABAT OF JUNE 17 DURING PRAYER MEETING OF GROUP CALLED KAT EDDEI ADONAI (GOD'S WITNESSES) IN RISHON LE ZION HOME OF ARTHUR DAVID GOLDBERG, AN EXPATRIATE AMERICAN WHO HOLD DUAL CITIZENSHIP. HOME IS LOCATED IN RELIGIOUS NEIGHBORHOOD OF MOSTLY EXPATRIATE AMERICAN JEWS. A GROUP OF YESHIVA STUDENTS SURROUNDED THE HOUSE. GROUP THEN RUSHED INTO THE GOLDBERG APARTMENT AND BROKE UP PRAYER MEETING, WITH LOTS OF SHOUTING. POLICE ALLEGED THE ONLY PHYSICAL DAMAGE WAS BREAKAGE OF POT OR VASE. NEIGHBORS CALLED THE POLICE WHO RESPONDED AND ARRESTED THE YESHIVA STUDENTS. THEY WERE LATER RELEASED ON BAIL AND TRIAL IS PENDING. EMBASSY HAS TRIED TO REACH GOLDBERG, WHO IS CURRENTLY ON LEAVE FROM HIS JOB WITH TWA AND WILL NOT RETURN UNTIL NEXT WEEK.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS CITING KAT EDDEI ADONAI SOURCES, DAMAGES AND PHYSICAL INTIMIDATION WAS CONSIDERABLE.
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 08247 301107Z

MISSIONARIES CHARGE, AS INDICATED IN REFTTEL, THAT ATTACKING STUDENTS HAD BEEN EGGED ON BY THEIR RABBINICAL TEACHERS AND CITE STATEMENT BY ONE OF THE ARRESTED YESHIVA STUDENTS THAT HE HAD THOUGHT THAT NEW LAW MAKING CONVERSION THROUGH BRIBERY AND MATERIAL INDUCEMENT A CRIME GAVE LEGALITY TO EFFORTS BY RELIGIOUS JEWS TO STOP ACTIVITIES OF APOSTATES.

3. AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE AND SPOKESMEN OF VARIOUS
CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS HAVE ALREADY EXPRESSED CONCERN
OVER THIS INCIDENT TO ATTORNEY GENERAL. POLICE CAME
PROMPTLY AND INTERVENED TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE IN THE
INVADED HOME. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT POLICE ACCOUNT OF DAMAGES
INFLECTED WAS UNDERSTATED.
LEWIS

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Message Attributes

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